

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-104

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SEE DISTRIBUTION

DATE: 4 MAY 1972

FROM : Chairman, Subcommittee #1

SUBJECT: Immigrations

1. A meeting was held 11 April 1972 between representatives of the Reversion Coordination Group (RCG), the American Consulate, and D/P&A, HQ USARYIS. The purpose of the meeting was to determine the status of and requirements for US passport holders on Okinawa after reversion.
2. The following are requirements for all US Forces personnel that possess passports:
 - a. Exit/Reentry Stamp: This stamp is required for passport holders when exiting and reentering Japan after departure on other than permanent change of station. It replaces the letter now issued for reentry into Okinawa.
 - b. SOFA Endorsements in Passports: The purpose of the endorsement is to identify SOFA-qualified personnel. Four categories of personnel are involved.

(1) SOFA-qualified passport holders currently on Okinawa and those that will arrive prior to 15 May: It was determined that all no-fee passport holders with the following statement in the passport are not required to have an endorsement placed in the passport: "This passport is valid only for use in connection with the bearer's residence abroad as a dependent of a member of the American Military or Naval Forces or a dependent of a civilian employee of the government on active duty outside the continental limits of the United States." In general, all dependents of the military and DA civilians on government travel orders will have this type of passport. Individually sponsored dependents will have fee passports without the above statement. These individuals will be required to have an endorsement placed in the passport by the American Consulate in Naha to identify them as qualified under SCFA. This stamp will replace the GRI residence certificate.

RJJC-1

4 MAY 1972

SUBJECT: Immigrations

(2) SOFA-qualified passport holders that arrive after 15 May: Current Japanese rules will apply. These personnel are identified at the port of entry where the passport and travel orders are checked and, if the person qualifies under SOFA, the passport is stamped and initialed by an Air Police border clearance representative. No further action is required on these passports. Upon departure on PCS, the passport is again stamped by the border clearance representative at the port of debarkation. If the passport holder departs Okinawa/Japan on other than PCS, an exit/reentry stamp is required.

(3) Individually sponsored dependents that enter Japan by visa:

(a) Dependents in this category enter Japan on a tourist visa in a fee passport. They normally enter through commercial ports. Once the dependent arrives, she can become qualified under SOFA provided the sponsor is physically present in Japan. To become SOFA-qualified the individual must:

1. Acquire certification from the appropriate service headquarters that she is qualified under SOFA.

2. Present the certificate to the Consulate General who will stamp the passport as required.

3. Present the stamped passport to Japanese immigrations who will void the visa.

(b) Individually sponsored dependents wishing to obtain an entry visa must obtain certain documents prior to applying for a visa from a Consulate in the U. S. These are:

1. Possess a valid passport.

2. Submit a completed visa application in duplicate and two photographs to the Japanese Consulate.

3. Obtain and attach to the application a statement from the sponsor's commander in Japan that he has approved the dependent's traveling to Japan at her own expense to join her sponsor and that the sponsor is responsible for the dependent's welfare while in Japan. (Each service must establish its own policy for this letter.)

American Consulate General
Naha, Japan

Date _____

The bearer of this passport is in the employ of, serving with, or accompanying the United States Armed Forces in Japan as defined in Article I of the Status of Forces Agreement.

John A. Smith
John A. Smith
American Consul

Civilian Component

American Consulate General
Naha, Japan

The bearer of this passport is a dependent of a person who is in the employ of, serving with, or accompanying the United States Armed Forces in Japan as defined in Article I of the Status of Forces Agreement.

Dependent

American Consulate General
Naha, Japan

The bearer of this passport is in Japan in fulfillment of a contract with the United States Armed Forces in Japan as defined in Article XIV of the Status of Forces Agreement.

Contractor

NOTE: In cases of large numbers of dependents, the following text may be used:

I certify that the persons named on the attached list are the dependents as defined in Article I(c) of the SOFA of Military personnel assigned to this Command.

3. Contractors and employees SOFA XIV

I certify that Miss Jane Smith is an employee of _____ Inc. which is a designated official contractor of the United States Government as defined in Article XIV of the SOFA.

I certify that Mr. John Johnson is a person who has been designated as an official contractor of the United States Government as defined in Article XIV of the SOFA.

Encl. 2

SAMPLE SOFA STATUS
CERTIFICATION MEMORANDUMS

The memorandums are to be typed on official letterheads, to be addressed to the American Consul General, Naha, Japan and to be signed by a unit's Commanding Officer, Adjutant, or Personnel Officer. The subject should be: Certification of SOFA Status.

1. Civilian Component SOFA I(b)

This is to certify that Mr. John Jones is employed by this command and is a member of the civilian component as defined in Article I(b) of the Status of Forces Agreement between the Governments of the United States and Japan.

NOTE: The names of non-Japanese dependents of civilian employees may be included in the same memorandum.

~~2. Dependents~~ SOFA I(c)

This is to certify that the following named person(s) (is) (are) the dependent(s) of S/Sgt James Smith 111-22-3333 who is now serving in this command. (He) (She) (They) are entitled to dependency status as defined in Article I(c) of the Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Japan.

RIJC-1

4 MAY 1972

SUBJECT: Immigrations

4. Article XIV Contractors: Currently qualified contractor employees and their dependents are authorized logistic support. After reversion only the U.S. employees of contractors that qualify under Article XIV of SOFA will be entitled to logistic support - not their dependents. These personnel have passports which must be endorsed by the Consulate General certifying that the contractor qualifies under Article XIV of SOFA. In order to qualify under Article XIV, the contractor must apply for recognition as an Article XIV contractor and be approved by a committee in Japan.


3. RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. That each service establish their own programs to accomplish above requirements.

b. That the Air Force establish procedures for the stamping of passports at the port of entry (ref para 2b(2) above) effective 15 May 72.

4. Attached for your information is a copy of the SOFA-recognition stamp to be placed in fee passports (incl 1). Also, at inclosure 2 are samples of certifications required by the various categories of personnel when they apply for a SOFA-recognition stamp.

2 Incl
as


W. H. SACHS, JR.
Colonel, GS
Chairman, Subcommittee #1

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Next 2 Page(s) In Document Denied